

FISHING IN THE MISSISSIPPI.

CATS OF GREAT SIZE CAUGHT ABOUT ST. LOUIS.

Nine Foot Gar Has Been Hooked—Big Water Snakes and Plenty of Crawfish—How an Alligator Was Captured—Treasures That Have Been Recovered.

The business of fishing in the waters of the Mississippi is by no means of the relative importance it was when St. Louis was a French village, but even now, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, considerable numbers of people on the outskirts of the city, north and south, gain their living by fishing, trapping and hunting.

The fishing season is now open. It is never entirely closed, for even in winter-time holes are cut in the ice of the river and a little fishing is done in a desultory, uncomfortable way, but with the advent of warm weather the fish become lively, and so do the fishermen. River fishing is carried on in several ways. The skiff and float method is practised by not a few. The floats are blocks of wood, 18 inches to 2 feet in length, 6 inches in diameter, tapering to a blunt point at one end, and in the center of the blunt end is a hole through which a stout staple is driven and a cord the size of a carpenter's chalkline and 6 to 8 feet in length is tied. A hook of stout steel is well baited with any fish or fish that may be convenient, and with thirty to sixty blocks in the skiff the fishermen row from Carondelet to the head of Arsenal Island, throw overboard their floats and quickly await a bite. Suddenly one of the floats disappears and he knows a large fish has been hooked. A hundred yards from the place of its disappearance the fisherman daily springs the line, often one or two feet below the surface. Again it sinks, but not so long.

At each disappearance the period is shorter, until finally the fish, completely tired out, stays near the surface, when the fisherman brings his skiff around below the float, and then the trouble begins, for any attempt to take the fish with a gaff hook is stoutly resisted, and unless care is exercised it is an easy matter for a large fish to overturn the boat and drown its occupant. When it is a small fish, however, that the quantity of considerable size, the float is made fast to the skiff and towed to shore, where the prey can be handled with less risk. A day's fishing usually comprises a float from the head of Arsenal Island to a point about two miles below Jefferson barracks, the work of rowing the skiff up the river from Carondelet to the workhouse and from the barracks to Carondelet again being no small part of the day's task.

What may be caught depends on fisherman's luck. The carp, carp, placed in the river about thirty years ago, is now found in great abundance, and the native fish, the channel cat, the mud cat, the shoveler and the sturgeon, are taken of very considerable size. The channel cat takes its name from the fact that it is most generally caught in the open channel, the mud cat frequents the shore and the shoveler, has, instead of the shovel, a broad, flat, protruding snout, and is often taken by turning over sand, mud and stones, and examining the river bottom with all the care exhibited by a boy springing for a frog.

The Mississippi catfish, often called a cat, weighs 250 to 300 pounds have often been taken about St. Louis, and a fish of this size, in proportion to its weight, is a most formidable prey, for he will easily pull a boat a mile against the powerful current before becoming tired enough to be drawn ashore.

Beside fish, the fishermen use a line or rope, often 200 to 400 feet long, to which are fastened at intervals of two feet, a line of rods with hooks, and a bait. One end of the line is made secure to a log on shore, and the other is taken out in the skiff and anchored in midstream. Every morning the line is examined, and the fisherman drawing it over the bow of his boat, taking in the catch and rebaiting the hooks. When a large fish is found hooked, the fisherman immediately pulls in the line, and both line and fish are being attempted to capture his formidable prey, for, although not usually considered a "game" fish, the cat is a very tough and strong animal.

The most common trap in use in St. Louis fishing grounds is an affair of hoops and netting, resembling two cones, each a foot in length, placed end to end. One end is open, and the other is closed into which the fish easily finds his way from the open end, but from which escape is impossible. This trap is anchored, paid out so as to float with the current, and the open end down stream, and is visited every twenty-four hours, robbed of the catch and reset.

Drift nets are very little used in the river, but in the pools of smaller streams, like the Meramec, a drifter of 15 or 20 feet in diameter will often bring up fifty or sixty pounds of fish. The drifter is made of a round or square. That is a matter of indifference. Stout rods or rings form the outside fastening of the netting which hangs down like a curtain. The net is lowered into the water from a tripod of poles, and banks or even from the banks, left open for a few moments on the bottom, then drawn up and the fish taken out with a long handled seine.

Seldom is a gar included in the catch. As one old fisherman expresses it: "The gar is the smartest fish in the river. When he catches himself, he catches the fisherman. One fish, given one snap with his jaws at the netting, and away he goes straight through; then you spend an hour mending your net. The gar is a small, striped, running into the Mississippi and we betide any fish that comes in or out of its appearance as a gar's appetite."

"There is a fine little lightning through the water and when you see the gar again he is swallowing the fish he caught. There are other fish that have sense enough to watch a fisherman's netting, and when they are enough for a meal, but the gar watches and waits until you add one fish after another until he thinks there are enough for dinner. Then he strikes, and he strikes with a splash, near the bank. The gar has cut your string and is off with the whole catch. Even to eight feet long have been caught in the Mississippi, and there is a tradition that one of nine feet was hooked in Cahokia Creek many years ago."

Water snakes of astonishing length are sometimes found in the Mississippi and the Missouri. Andrew Gamache, up at Portage de Sioux, with a companion, hooked the biggest snake on record in the Mississippi Valley. They were fishing one day on the southern side of the Missouri when they suddenly noticed a few feet from the boat a wicked snake head on a slight, upright stick, with two feet above the water. The head was slowly turning from side to side, while a long, forked tongue protruded from the mouth, and the man endeavored to mesmerize the two fishermen.

Recovering from their first fright, they threw a hook attached to a stout cord and pole and at the end of the cord, a good luck to catch the monster in the mouth. Fortunately they were near the shore, so that they hurried and dragged their now frightened catch to the bank. Even after securing the line, however, the snake was no easy task. They beat him with clubs and poles until the reptile seemed unconscious, at least for about half a length, then threw the line over one of the higher branches of a tree and drew the snake straight into the air. When they first saw him in the water either would have taken oath that he was 150 feet long. When drawn up in the tree they declared he was good length for a Missouri river snake, even if the skiff did contain a jug.

The only alligator known to be caught in the Mississippi was captured twenty years ago near opposite Carondelet by the aid of a plank. It was this way. One of the old French settlers noticed one day an alligator sunning himself on a bar op-

posite Vide Poche. As the skiff approached, the alligator slid into the water and disappeared. A few days later the fisherman on the same bar saw the alligator on his voyage across the river had pulled out of the water a long plank. On approaching the shore there was the same alligator on the same bar. Fortunately a few feet further from the shore, the alligator started the expected rush for the river, made a barrier of the plank by standing it on edge. It would not have delayed his alligatorship more than a moment, but that was enough to prevent a slip noose and throw it over his head. He was less than three feet long and not so much of an alligator after all, and his distinction arose mainly from the fact that he was as far as known the only saurian caught in the vicinity of Vide Poche.

The crawfish, with the thirty satiate with little hunger, they lay a perience between evening drinks are caught with dipnets, 20 to 30 feet in diameter, circular and at the end of a pole. The net is lowered to the bottom of the water in a locality where crawfish abound and over it is suspended, by means of a stick and a string, a piece of "high" pork or any other meat that has survived its usefulness as human food. Whether the crawfish will take the carrion or taste it in the water nobody knows, but the news of its presence soon spreads to every crawfish domicile in the vicinity and all the crawfish drop everything and come.

When the bait is raised to the surface they hang on until almost out of the water, then drop off in every direction; that is, they try to fly, but the net is drawn up as the bait is lifted, and not a crawfish escapes. It is the cowardliest way of catching them, and the most common. The Poirrier, "for the pore crawfish haven't got a ghost of a chance to get away." Frogs are not fished for. The hunters go to the bank and are one at a time, armed with a cat rifle and smokeless cartridges. The veteran "bulls" are easily spotted by the experienced eye as they squat along the bank and are one at a time, armed with a cat rifle and smokeless cartridges. The veteran "bulls" are easily spotted by the experienced eye as they squat along the bank and are one at a time, armed with a cat rifle and smokeless cartridges.

Trapping has already been mentioned, but the operations of the trapper are now confined to minnows and muskrats. The sloughs and small streams on the Illinois side furnish the best hunting grounds for the "bulls."

Among the old fishermen of Vide Poche, along the flats east of Bremen and Baden, the date of the first settlement is a tradition in abundance of the good old times when turtles were two and a half feet across the shell, "floaters" were numerous and drift nets were used. A day's fishing on the flats during flood time was to stand on the bank with a boat hook and draw the logs ashore as fast as you could work.

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DENONCES THE SOCIALISTS.

CIVIC FEDERATION ORGAN AS-SAILS COLLEGE RECRUITING.

Promoters of the Move Scored Because Their Interests Are Not Those of Workingmen—Robert Hunter Taken to Task for His Cry of Starving Millions.

The number of the Civic Federation Review, the official organ of the National Civic Federation, which will appear tomorrow handles the socialists without gloves for their attempts to induce college students to join their ranks. It also has something to say about sociological exaggerations regarding the amount of poverty in the United States, taking for an illustration the statement in Robert Hunter's book, "Poverty," that there are 10,000,000 poverty stricken people in the United States and another statement by Mr. Hunter that 70,000 children in New York go breakfastless to the public schools.

The Review quotes the call recently issued by ten college bred persons to college students to unite in forming an Intercollegiate Socialist Society for the study of socialism. Among the signers were Jack London, J. G. Phelps Stokes and Clarence Darrow. "The advocates of socialism," the article says, "having failed to capture the mass of wage earners, have projected a campaign beyond them, planned to pervert the minds of the professional classes, and the younger and more impressionable recipients of the higher education. It is interesting to observe that the promoters of the proposed Intercollegiate Socialist Society and of similar movements, inspired by self-imposed solitude for the tolling masses, are almost never workmen and have nothing in common with the interests of laborers."

"Their roster is largely made up of brilliant lawyers, pulpless clergymen, professional writers, and other persons whose usefulness in college faculties has ceased to exist, sentimental exaggerators in social settlements, and faddists. There are here and there among them some who are in the street corner speech of a socialist agitator could not be differentiated by a microscope from that of a 'foaming anarchist.' 'The one,' says, 'would incite the passions of the masses to the frenzy of murder as thoroughly as the other. Are these seditious teachings of class hatred and social revolution, to be made part of the college curriculum?'"

Coming down to the subject of sociological exaggerations the article assails Mr. Hunter's statement that 10,000,000 people in the United States are in the grip of poverty. This assertion, it says, has been utterly discredited and even Mr. Hunter admitted that he was largely guessing. The Salvation Army and the Y. M. C. A. free breakfasts to the 70,000 alleged breakfastless children. An agent of the Salvation Army reported that the conditions of the children were not as bad as the much exaggerated. The army established eight or nine stations for free breakfasts. For the first two or three days not more than 500 children applied for the breakfasts and the number dwindled until no one came and the stations were closed.

BAD CHECK FOR AN AUTO.

A middle aged man with a Van Dyke beard and curly mustache went to the Broadway Automobile Exchange, 141 West Forty-eighth street, yesterday morning and said that he wanted to buy an American car of good make. He gave his name as Samuel D. Styles and said that he lived at 122 West 100th street.

Present Frank M. Simons, of the company, showed him the stock. After much deliberation the customer selected an automobile for \$3,200. "I'll come around this afternoon with my man and take it away."

In payment Styles gave Mr. Simons a check for \$3,200. It purported to have been drawn to his order by Francis L. Neland on the New York County National Bank, at Fourteenth street and Eighth avenue, in 1892. A check for \$3,200, payable to the order of the bank, was also given.

After Styles had gone Simons got to thinking the matter over. Finally he called on the bank. Mr. Neland was not there, but the check and said that the signature on the certification had been forged.

Mr. Simons called in Policeman Martin of the traffic squad. When Styles put in an appearance for his purchase he was arrested.

A wet sponge gave the prisoner a clean shave and his beard and mustache were scraped hair gummy on.

FIRST WOMAN D. D. IS DEAD.

Rev. Dr. Augusta J. Chapin Succumbs in St. Luke's Hospital.

The Rev. Dr. Augusta J. Chapin, said to be the first woman doctor of divinity, died last night in St. Luke's Hospital, Manhattan. Mrs. Chapin was born at Lakeville, near Rochester, and was the daughter of Amos and Mary Chapin. She was educated in the eighth grade of Deacon Samuel Chapin of Springfield, Mass. She took the A. M. degree at the University of Vermont in 1884, and the A. D. degree of divinity by Lombard University in 1893. She preached her first sermon in Portland, Me., May 1, 1899, and had since been a member of the First Church of Christ, in Portland, Me. She resigned the pastorate of the Mount Vernon, N. Y. church a few years ago and had been since a public writer and lecturer.

She was chairman of the women's general committee of the World's Parliament of Religions in 1893. She belonged to Sorosis and other prominent clubs.

THE SENATOR HOAR MEMORIAL.

Subscriptions to the Fund Will Probably Reach \$80,000.

WORCESTER, Mass., July 1.—The subscription lists for the Senator George Friebe Hoar memorial fund closed here today and the treasurer, George Friebe, announced that the fund would be unable to give out the exact size of the fund until all the returns were in. He said, however, that some days ago it passed the \$25,000 mark, which is more than twice the amount of the fund, and he believed it to be close to \$30,000.

Contributions, large and small, have poured in from all over the country and even from abroad. The fund to-day was \$100.

THE MORTGAGE TAX LAW.

State Tax Commission Kept Busy Explaining Its Provisions.

ALBANY, July 1.—The State Tax Commission has been very busy the last week answering queries from County Clerks and others as to the proper administration of the new mortgage tax law, which went into effect to-day.

With regard to one of the most important questions asked—whether mortgages dated and acknowledged prior to July 1, but not recorded until on or subsequent to that date, should be recorded without requiring payment of the tax—the commission rules that such mortgages are not subject to the recording tax. They would be subject to the regular annual tax dating from July 1 next.

To prevent a mortgage being antedated before July 1 which is actually made after July 1, it is stated that it may be held that a mortgage made at the time of the acknowledgment, unless the person offering it for filing takes oath to the contrary. There is no doubt that recording officers and as a result, deputies may administer the oath which is required for the proper execution of this law as to determining the amount of tax imposed upon any mortgage subject to whether or not the same is subject to tax.

Recording officers may receive payment of the annual tax between the first day of July and the first day of October in each year on mortgages which are not satisfied or reduced in amount. In case a mortgage is made for a short period and is not paid when due and the tax was paid upon recording the mortgage to the day on which the mortgage was payable and on or subsequent to that time a release of part of the mortgage proceeds is recorded for record, it is the duty of the recording officer to collect the amount of tax due on the original mortgage from the date to which the tax had been previously paid to the time of the recording of the release.

FOR 4TH OF JULY WOUNDS.

Dose of Tetanus Antitoxin Should Be Given When They Are Dressing.

ALBANY, July 1.—The June bulletin of the State Department of Health calls special attention to the fact that tetanus, or lockjaw, frequently follows Fourth of July and other injuries, especially where dirt, paper, cartridge waste and other foreign substances are carried into the wounds. It urges all physicians who treat persons injured in this way to administer the tetanus antitoxin at the time the wounds are dressed. This procedure will surely prevent lockjaw. The department believes that many cases of this disease are prevented by the use of tetanus antitoxin, but that there is no reason why every case could not be prevented.

Generous supplies of the anti-toxin produced in the United States are being sent to do to use in local health officers of all the large cities and villages and many towns, and the bulletin urges such officers to keep a supply of the antitoxin on hand so that any physician can obtain gratis what he needs by applying to the health officer.

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NOT TO MAKE RECORD RUNS.

Lake Shore Engineers Warned Against Trying for New Marks.

CHICAGO, July 1.—Record breaking speed runs will no longer be made on the Lake Shore Road. Engineers who had hoped to set "Flying Dutchman" (Guinness) remarkable run from Toledo to Elkhart on Thursday are disappointed. The following order was posted at division points to-day:

GOOD HEALTH IS THE PRICE OF BEAUTY.

MRS. E. R. OLSEN.



MRS. E. R. OLSEN.

Pelvic Catarrh Destroys the Health of a Multitude of the Fair Sex—Pe-ru-na Is Their Only Remedy and Safeguard.

MRS. E. R. OLSEN.

"My life forces were being sapped away by constant internal irritation and weakening drains. This sentence is repeated in my mind almost every day. The many pelvic diseases to which women are liable give rise to exactly this state of affairs. A constant nagging pain, a continuous loss of strength through excessive mucous secretions finally undermine the nervous system entirely and leave the woman a complete physical wreck. Local treatment is of little avail. It acts as a temporary palliative, but does not reach the root of the difficulty. Catarrh is at the root of the trouble—catarrh of the pelvic organs. As soon as the patient begins to take Peru-na she discovers that she is taking the correct remedy. Peru-na is not a palliative. It is a radical cure for such cases. Catarrh is the cause of the difficulty. Peru-na cures the catarrh, when the symptoms disappear."

"I used Peru-na for five months, after that I was able to do my work and I was able to enjoy the very best of health and am only too pleased to recommend your fine medicine."

Household Remedy Eight Years.

Mrs. Mattie King, 1527 Polk street, San Francisco, Cal., Recording Secretary Native Daughters of California, writes: "I have used Peru-na myself and in my family for the past eight years and am free to admit that it has proven itself to be a most decided household blessing."

Health Replaces Weakness.

"It cured me of inflammation of the bladder and made me a strong and happy woman. Before I had been weak and worn out."

"I find it of special value for my little daughter, as one doctor said that she had pains, and colds are soon driven from the system."

APPEARANCES OF GUILT

THAT HAVE PLACED INNOCENT PERSONS IN JEOPARDY.

Bishop Who Found Stolen Watch in His Pocket—Alone in a Room With a Man Fatally Injured—Driving Away Cattle for a Thief—Strong Evidence Against the Innocent in Murder Cases.

"One of the most terrible frights I ever had in my life," were the words with which Lord Russell of Killowen, the late Lord Chief Justice, used to introduce an experience of his younger days, says the London Answer. He was unknown and almost friendless in London, and had one night gone to the theatre, to forget in the amusement of a comic piece how badly things were faring with him. The present and the future seemed dark to him; but the play was amusing, and young Russell became oblivious of all his troubles as he looked and laughed from his seat in the gallery. As he and those about him were about to leave at the end of the performance, a person close by discovered that he had been robbed of his gold watch, raised an alarm, and the police were called in.

"The robbed person had been sitting close to me," said Russell, "and my heart stood still as it suddenly flashed across me that I was in a terrible position. I could have put it into my pocket. If suspicion lighted on me, and the watch were there, what would become of me? The thought filled me with such terror that I felt a cold perspiration break out on me. Such a thing would mean absolute and irretrievable ruin. But the police did not light on me. I passed out as calmly as I could. As soon as I had got a little distance away I carefully went through all my pockets. The watch was never discovered. I gave a shilling as I had escaped from some awful peril."

Russell's terror was by no means unfounded. Thieves have resorted to the trick of "planting" property they have feared to carry in the pockets of perfectly innocent people. One of the most famous instances is that of a man who, by a series of misadventures, was amazed to find a valuable gold watch in one of the pockets of his episcopal coat.

He, of course, took it to Scotland Yard with explanations, and they, being already in communication with the owner of the missing valuable, handed it to him. The watch was never discovered. It seems impossible for the human mind to associate the stealing of gold watches with a Bishop, but had the detectives in prosecuting the case, been told of the circumstances, they would have found a man awaiting him.

Gill was delighted and undertook the job readily, and the stranger, a most agreeable person, on having given Gill many instructions as to not overdriving the beasts, and so on. For some hours Gill drove the cows in peace, but then the man who had been driving the cattle for him to Westminster Bridge, where he would find a man awaiting him.

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Having stolen things foisted on one may place a man or woman in a terrible position. The same result may attend having articles stolen from one. Karl Franz, a young German, had his pocket picked of a watch and a chain, and he was told by the next he heard of the pocket was that it had been discovered beside the dead body of a woman who had been murdered by burglars at Kingswood Rectory. Franz was

PERSONALITY

IN FURNITURE



MRS. S. E. WALKER.

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"My husband has used Peru-na for colds and stomach disorders and found it most valuable. I keep it constantly in the house and consider it the finest family remedy we know."

"I have had poor health for the past four years, pains in the back and groins and sick headaches, with bearing down pains."

"At times my pains would increase and I did not expect ever to be perfectly well again. A friend who was very enthusiastic about Peru-na advised that I try it."

Ten Years Younger.

"I took it for ten days and was surprised to find that I had so little pain. I therefore continued to use it and at the end of two months my pains had totally disappeared. I have been in the best of health since and feel ten years younger. I am very grateful to you."

Address Dr. S. B. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanatorium, Colorado, Ohio. All correspondence held strictly confidential.

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is the spirit that we have instilled in our showing of pieces for the Study and Hall. The Easy Chairs for the "reading hour," the long Solas for deep comfort, and the generous Tables for writing and study; pieces that offer the impression of serviceability and character in design.

Grand Rapids Furniture

Company

(Incorporated)

34th Street, West, Nos. 155-157

"MINUTE FROM BROADWAY."